

REMARKS

Claims 39-76 were previously pending in the application. By the Amendment, Claims 39, 53, 56, 58, 71, 73 and 74 are currently amended, and Claims 40-52, 54, 55, 57, 59-70, 75 and 76 remain unchanged.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of Claim 76 and indication that Claims 43, 44, 53, 54, 65, and 71-74 include allowable subject matter. Rewriting of Claims 43, 44, 53, 54, 65 and 71-74 is being held in abeyance pending further examination of the presently amended claims.

The claims stand rejected under the cited prior art of record. Specifically, Claims 39, 40, 46-52, 55, 56, 59-63, 66, 67 and 75 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by German Patent DE 3739145 A1 (DE '145). Claims 41, 42, 45, 57, 58, and 68-70 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over DE '145 in view of German Patent DE 10126842 A1 (DE '842).

Independent Claim 39 recites a method for discharging an airstream from a cooking area, including the steps of first, passing the airstream through a sorbent for sorption of water or water vapor present in the airstream using an air discharge device having a fan operational to pass the airstream in a first flow mode at a first predetermined flow rate and then, regenerating the sorbent when the air discharge device fan is operational to pass the airstream at a second predetermined flow rate, the second predetermined flow rate being less than the first predetermined flow rate, thereby defining a second flow mode for sorbent regeneration.

Independent Claim 56 recites a vapor-discharging device for discharging an air stream from a cooking area including a housing; a fan for conveying the

airstream through the vapor-discharging device with the fan being operational to pass the airstream in a first flow mode at a first predetermined flow rate; a sorbent arranged in the airstream for sorption of water or water vapor in the airstream; and means for regenerating the sorbent operational when the air discharge device fan is operational to pass the airstream at a second predetermined flow rate, the second predetermined flow rate being less than the first predetermined flow rate, thereby defining a second flow mode for sorbent regeneration.

DE '145 is directed to a system for dehumidifying air in a room including a fan for blowing air into a housing and through an adsorbent material to remove water from the atmosphere. The adsorbent is regenerated with an imbedded heater illustrated at 8 in Figure 3. Regeneration of the adsorbent material takes place when the blower is switched completely off using natural circulation. The apparatus in Figure 3 makes use of a partial pressure difference of the water vapor for the current of air in the regeneration enterprise.

In substantial contrast, the present invention conducts sorbent regeneration when the vapor discharging apparatus is not being used in the normal mode, i.e. for suction removal of vapors. In the regeneration operation, the fan 8 is operated in a very low stage to convey only a small quantity of air and/or a regeneration air stream through the vapor-discharging device (p.11, II. 14-23). Further, DE '842 does not remedy the deficiencies of the teachings of DE '145 and therefore, since DE '145 cannot be used to anticipate the present invention, so it cannot be combined with DE '842 reference to render the present invention obvious.

For these and other reasons, DE '145 does not disclose the subject matter defined by independent Claims 39 and 56. Therefore, Claims 39 and 56 are allowable. Claims 40, 46-52, 55 depend from Claim 39, and Claims 59-63, 66,

67 and 75 depend from Claim 56, and all are allowable for the same reasons and also because they recite additional patentable subject matter.

For these and other reasons, DE '145 and DE '842, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the subject matter defined by dependent Claims 41, 42, 45, 57, 58, 64 and 68-70. Therefore, Claims 41, 42, 45, 57, 58, 64 and 68-70 are allowable. Claims 41, 42, 45, 57, 58, 64 and 68-70 depend from Claims 39 and 56 respectively and are allowable for the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 39-76 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,



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